

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that this Response After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants submit that this Response presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this Response could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claims 1, 4, 7-10, 16 and 19 have been amended. Claims 3, 6 and 11 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10 and 16-22 are now presented for examination.

In a final Office Action, claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that claim 8 has been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stepp, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,463). In addition, claims 4-5, 11 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp, III. Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Stepp, III.

Stepp, III discloses a system for actively cooling an electronic device. See Stepp, III at Abstract. Stepp, III further discloses a controller 320 that is coupled to temperature sensors 314 and cooling fans 316. The controller 320 monitors the temperature of components 302-312 through the temperature sensors 314. The temperature sensors 314 and cooling fans 316 are all connected to controller 320 via the Fan M/C connection. See Stepp, III at col. 6, ll. 14-19 and Figure 3.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a first management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a first type and a second management bus coupled only to field

replicable units of a second type. Applicants submit that Stepp, III fails to disclose such a feature. As shown in figure 3 of Stepp, III the temperature sensors 314 and cooling fans 316 are both coupled to the controller 320 over the same connection. Stepp, III does not disclose a separate connection to the controller for each type of unit. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Stepp, III. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 3-5 are also patentable over Stepp, III.

Claim 16 recites a first management bus coupled only to temperature sensors, and a second management bus coupled only to fan trays. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 16 is patentable over Stepp, III. Because claims 17-22 depend from claim 16 and include additional features, claims 17-22 are also patentable over Stepp, III.

Claims 9-10 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp, III, in view of Holland et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,669). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Stepp, III in view of Holland.

Holland discloses a fault tolerant disk array control system. See Holland at Abstract. However, Holland does not disclose a first management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a first type and a second management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a second type.

As discussed above, Stepp, III does not disclose such a feature. Since neither Stepp, III nor Holland disclose a first management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a first type and a second management bus coupled only to field replicable units of

a second type, any combination of Stepp, III and Holland would not disclose the feature. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Stepp, III in view of Holland.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp, III, in view of Jewett et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,073,251). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Stepp, III in view of Jewett.

Jewett discloses a computer system with a fault tolerant configuration. See Jewett at Abstract. However, Jewett does not disclose a first management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a first type and a second management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a second type.

As discussed above, Stepp, III does not disclose such a feature. Since neither Stepp, III nor Jewett disclose a first management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a first type and a second management bus coupled only to field replicable units of a second type, any combination of Stepp, III and Jewett would not disclose the feature. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Stepp, III in view of Jewett.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

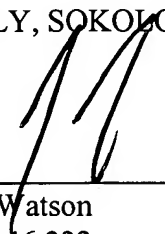
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: April 12, 2006



Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980